



**DELAWARE HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Division of Public Health**

August 16, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the investigation of Earl Bradley continues, investigators have become aware of allegations that Bradley may have given diluted or expired vaccine to some of his patients. This letter is intended to make you aware of the allegations and provide some guidance.

We are not able to confirm the accuracy of these allegations, and it is possible that we may never know if these allegations are true. The allegations relate to the years 2006 through 2007, but may not be limited to those years.

In light of these allegations, your child may very likely need to be revaccinated if previously vaccinated at Earl Bradley's office. Receiving diluted or expired vaccine will not likely cause harm by itself, but your child may not be adequately immunized against infection. We urge you to contact your child's medical provider to determine which vaccines your child may need.

Enclosed you will find additional information prepared by the Division of Public Health. Please carefully review this information. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Division of Public Health's Immunization Program at 1-800-282-8672 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The Attorney General's Lewes Community Office, at 105 W. 4th Street, was established following the arrest of Earl Bradley and remains open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with special hours by appointment. You may reach the Lewes Community Office at 302-645-4010. You can get copies of your child's medical records and information about other services there. In addition, if you have information to share, or are in need of non-medical information or services, you may also contact the Delaware State Police Victim Services Hotline at 1-800-VICTIM1 (1-800-842-8461). Staff is available 24 hours a day to assist you and your family.

The health of Delaware's children is a critical concern. Our agencies will continue to work together to address the issues that arise from this ongoing case and provide all necessary services to you, your family, and members of the community affected by these events.

Sincerely,

Karyl T. Rattay MD, MS, FAAP, FACPM  
Director of the Division of Public Health  
Department of Health & Social Services

Patricia Dailey Lewis  
Deputy Attorney General  
Director of the Family Division  
Department of Justice



## Questions and Answers about vaccinations received from Earl Bradley

### Was there a problem with the vaccines given to Bradley's patients?

Allegations have been made that Earl Bradley provided diluted or expired vaccines to children in his practice. We may never know if these allegations are true or, if true, how many vaccines were given that were diluted or expired.

### What does this mean for former patients of Bradley?

Our primary concern is that Bradley's former patients are appropriately protected against vaccine preventable diseases. Receiving diluted or expired vaccine will not likely cause harm by itself. However, children receiving diluted or expired vaccines may have reduced protection against certain vaccine-preventable diseases.

### Are children getting sick because of this?

The Division of Public Health monitors for diseases that are prevented by vaccines. We have not seen any increase in these diseases in the community or in the state. We will continue to monitor vaccine-preventable diseases statewide and especially in Sussex County. We will look for any indication that vaccine-preventable diseases might be occurring at increased rates and inform the public promptly if that occurs.

### How worried should we be about this?

Most likely the patients in Bradley's practice have some level of protection against these infections. They may have received some, if not all, of the recommended doses necessary to give them immunity against these diseases. Also, because of widespread immunization against these infections, a child's chance of catching a disease is low if everyone else is immunized.

### Is there any way to know if my child received diluted or expired vaccine?

It may not be possible to determine if vaccine used with any individual child was diluted or expired. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that blood tests cannot easily and accurately tell us if individual children are fully immunized.

### What should parents of Earl Bradley's patients do?

The CDC recommends that children whose vaccination history cannot be confirmed be vaccinated again. **Most importantly, talk to your child's doctor.** Because each child's situation is different, please consult with your child's doctor about additional vaccinations. Because vaccine preventable diseases can be much more serious in those with certain health conditions, it is especially important that parents of children with chronic health conditions talk with their health care providers about revaccination.

### Who can we contact with questions?

Please call the Division of Public Health's Immunization Program at 1-800-282-8672 with any questions about this matter.

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